The Outsider.

Last month we chose Frederick Forsyth’s autobiography that read like a ‘Boy’s Own super hero‘ story. In this six-chapter memoir the successful British author tells of the many thrilling experiences of his life from his early childhood to the present day. Frederick Forsyth has written a book that seems much like one of his fictional novels only this time he is the lead character and it records his life that would be the envy of many men—but few women. His accomplishments by the age of only 17 are remarkable— a scholar, a fluent linguist and a pilot’s licence. His early school holidays were spent in Germany , France and Spain where he learned the languages. These accomplishments were immensely useful as a foreign correspondent in his life of travel and adventure, that involved him in dangerous situations. However, he did not endear himself with all of our readers! In fact he came in for some very harsh criticism; here are some: ‘I disliked him intensely, self opinionated, self-promoting, self congratulatory’. ‘An obvious journalistic reporting style of prose, no humility, no compassion’. ‘The last man on earth I’d choose to sit around a dinner table with—imagine the tedium of his tales of daring do’. Another reader recorded that there was hardly a mention of women in the entire book. I suppose you can’t win them all; we will be more selective in our choice of autobiographies in future.

Our next book is “The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho.